

**REMARKS**

In the last Office Action<sup>1</sup>, the Examiner took the following actions:

- 1) rejected claims 1-9, 16, 26, 27, 41-49, 56, 66, 67, 86, and 90 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,798,753 to *Doganata* ("Doganata");
- 2) rejected claims 12-15, 22-25, 33-37, 52-55, 62-65, 73-77, 82-83, and 87 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Doganata* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,610 to *Malik* ("Malik");
- 3) rejected claims 10, 11, 50, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and being unpatentable over *Doganata*;
- 4) rejected claims 17 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Doganata* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,540,850 to *Herr et al.* ("Herr");
- 5) rejected claims 18-21 and 58-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dognata* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,796 to *Kermani* ("Kermani");
- 6) rejected claims 28-32 and 68-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Doganata* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,692 to *Chakrabarti et al.* ("Chakrabarti");
- 7) rejected claims 38, 40, 78, 80, 81, 85 and 89 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Doganata* and *Malik* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,638,434 to *Gottlieb et al.* ("Gottlieb"); and

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

8) rejected claims 39, 79, and 84 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dognata*, *Malik*, and *Gottlieb* in further view of *Chakrabarti*.

By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 33, 39-41, 73, 79-87, 89, and 90, and cancel claims 2, 3, 42, and 43. Claims 1, 4-41, 44-87, 89, and 90 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. The cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. For example, independent claim 1 recites, *intra alia*, a method for providing a conference call, comprising:

...

scanning a data structure associated with the calendar application to determine if a current time and date is within a predetermined window before a time and date of the conference call event;

automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window;

...

notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured; [and]

contacting the participant users at the time and date of the conference call event.

*Doganata*, *Malik*, *Herr*, *Kermani*, *Chakrabarti*, and *Gottlieb*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least these elements of claim 1.

*Doganata* discloses a method for providing automatic scheduling and establishment of telephone conferences over a network. Abstract. If the conference is

scheduled to dial-out the participants and is marked as a calendar entry, the desktop application stores the conference information in a database. Col 2., line 51-52. A record in this database includes the start/end time of a conference and the telephone numbers of the participants. Col. 2, lines 52-53. Once a teleconference calendar entry is created, the process for establishing the conference starts and proceeds automatically. Col. 2, lines 56-57. At the scheduled time, the desktop application can warn the user by running an alarm function to remind them of the time of the conference. Col. 2, lines 57-61. Thereafter, a secondary application is invoked, either manually or automatically, and the conference information is passed to the secondary application for automatic establishment of the conference. Col. 2, lines 61-64. For a dial-out conference, an alarm is set for the future conference and the participants are notified. Col. 4, lines 59-61. This alarm function can be implemented in a variety of ways including monitoring an Appointment Database. Col. 4, lines 62-66. When monitoring the Appointment Database, the Appointment Alarm Process periodically checks the Appointment Database for scheduled conferences. Col. 6, lines 23-25.

"Hence, the main function of the Appointment Alarm Process . . . in a dial-out conference is to read the start date/time of the appointment entries and to invoke the Secondary Application . . . via Secondary Application Interface . . . to start the conference automatically when the time for the conference comes." Col. 6, lines 25-30.

Accordingly, *Doganata* does not teach or suggest "automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window," and "notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured," as recited in claim 1.

*Malik* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Dognata*. That is, *Malik* also fails to teach or suggest “automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window,” and “notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured.”

*Malik* discloses a system and method for automated conference call set up. (Abstract). In *Malik*, a coordinator first sets up a call by contacting a service node, by, for example, dialing a predetermined telephone number. Col. 5, lines 32-36. The coordinator then enters information about the call, including the time and data of the conference call, and the information is sent to a service control point, where the information is then stored in a database. Col. 5, lines 36-41. The conference call can then be initiated by the service control point by contacting each participant stored in the database. Col. 5, lines 47-49. However, *Malik* does not disclose or suggest the aforementioned elements of claim 1.

*Herr* also fails to cure the deficiencies of *Dognata* and *Malik*, because *Herr* fails to disclose or suggest “automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window,” and “notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured.” Instead, *Herr* merely discloses a conference arrangement wherein, when a conferee is disconnected, a tone alerts the other conferees of the disconnection and the connection is reestablished automatically. (Abstract).

*Kermani* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Herr*, *Dognata*, and *Malik*. Specifically, *Kermani* also fails to teach or suggest “automatically configuring a conference call

based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window," and "notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured." Instead, *Kermani* discloses an apparatus for allowing a digital search of entries in a digital audio database wherein each audio entry in the database is converted into textual information and the textual information is associated with the particular entry. (Abstract).

*Chakrabarti* also fails to cure the deficiencies of *Kermani*, *Herr*, *Dognata*, and *Malik*. In particular, *Chakrabarti* fails to teach or suggest "automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window," and "notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured." Instead, *Chakrabarti* discloses a telecommunication network for making conference calls between mobile and non-mobile telephones wherein, when a disconnection is detected and determined to be unintentional, the connection is automatically reestablished. (abstract).

*Gottlieb* also fails to cure the deficiencies of *Chakrabarti*, *Kermani*, *Herr*, *Dognata*, and *Malik*, since *Gottlieb* fails to teach or suggest "automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event when it is determined that the current time and date is within the predetermined window," and "notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured." Instead, *Gottlieb* merely discloses a conference system that provides dial-out conference calls to participants using a virtual private network ("VPN") dialing plan.

Accordingly, the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1.

Although different in scope than claim 1 and one another, independent claims 33, 39-41, 73, 79-87, 89, and 90 are patentable over the cited art for at least reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 4-32, 34-38, 44-72, 74-78 depend from one of claims 1, 33, 41, 73 are allowable due to at least their dependence. Claims 2, 3, 42, and 43 have been canceled rendering their rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

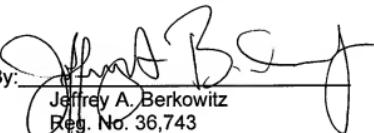
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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